



# Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

[www.mishawaka.in.gov](http://www.mishawaka.in.gov)

July 2020

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



### Our Latest Park Improvements!

Downtown Mishawaka continues the long-term transformation from rust belt, legacy industrial center into a mixed-use, architecturally significant and pedestrian friendly destination where people are choosing to dine, shop, open a business and live! Quality of life projects and amenities architecture have played a key role in igniting that transformation. Projects like the Mishawaka Riverwalk, Robert C. Beutter Riverfront Park and the renovations of Central Park and Battell Park have not only enhanced the downtown and brought in thousands daily, they have become signature landmarks that have become synonymous with the Princess City itself. Though some of us are still left that

can remember the downtown before these projects, few citizens can imagine Mishawaka without them. We continue to invest in projects primarily designed to benefit the public, yet have the important side effect of attracting private business investment, new residents and improving our tax base.

I'm happy to report that our latest project is nearing completion and I think it is one you are going to like; an addition to Robert C. Beutter Riverfront Park known as "Ironworks Plaza". Phase I of the project officially opened on July 4th and includes a Biergarten picnic patio, permanent family restrooms, Hill Street extension/parking area and significant underground utility work to allow for future construction phases. At the dedication event, we honored this Park's namesake, former Mayor Bob Beutter who passed away earlier this year. He was the principal driver behind our redevelopment efforts on this site that started a quarter century ago and is greatly missed.

This project was completed to create a unique additional event space along our popular Riverwalk and increasingly vibrant downtown. Funding for the project came from the City's Consolidated Tax Increment Financing District along with a small Regional Cities grant that was previously approved by the South Bend-Elkhart Regional Development Authority. The underground infrastructure, parking lot, and river wall work was completed by C & E Excavating of Elkhart. The Biergarten was

*(cont'd on next page)*

### Select Services to Resume

#### *Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System*

Saint Joseph Health System (SJHS) is enhancing safety precautions already in place to resume select surgeries, procedures and other critical services. We remain committed to providing the safe, quality care we know our patients and communities need.

Over the past few weeks, we understand many people did not seek care they need out of fear. We want you to not postpone care you need to get healthy and stay well.

Safety is one of our core values and a top priority. SJHS has the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-Free Zones for safe screening and testing. We are here for you and are committed to keeping you safe while you get the medical care you need.

This is why:

- We are restricting visitors in our facilities.
- All patients scheduled for elective procedures receive a COVID-19 test.
- If a patient tests positive, the procedure is postponed until a negative result is obtained.
- At the time of a negative test result, the procedure will continue as planned in the COVID-Free Zone (areas separate from patients confirmed to have COVID-19 in our facilities).
- If a patient tests positive, the necessary procedure may continue, should the patient's condition worsen.
- We provide and **require** face masks at our facilities.
- We also are following the CDC's standards with cleaning, with particular attention to surfaces frequently touched, like doorknobs and flat surfaces.
- We are continuing safe distancing measures wherever possible.

These requirements and the services offered may change as the situation locally and statewide changes. Please visit <https://www.sjmed.com/covid19> or call your healthcare provider for the most up-to-date information .



### UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3 City Offices Closed

### MILITARY HOMETOWN HEROES BANNER PROGRAM

For more information or to purchase a banner, visit

<http://mishawaka.in.gov/military-hometown-heroes>

### ONLINE ACCESS



<http://mishawaka.in.gov>



<http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>



<http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>



<http://mishawaka.in.gov/parksandrecreation>



<https://twitter.com/MishawakaMayor>



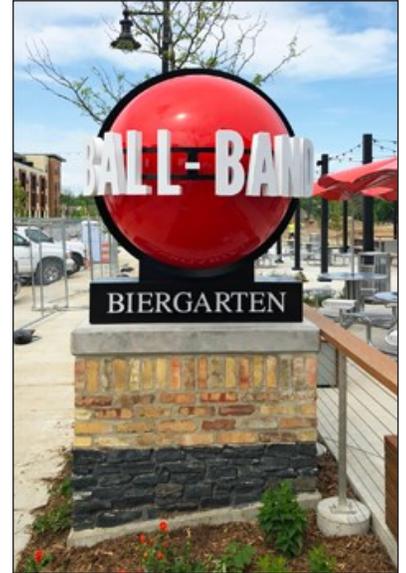
<https://instagram.com/MishawakaMayor/>

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

completed by Ziolkowski Construction of South Bend. Design was a collaboration of multiple consultants led by Lawson Fisher Associates Civil Engineers of South Bend but also included Arkos Design, Hellman Sechrist Architecture, Context Design, and Stantec.

I always like to incorporate Mishawaka History in our projects and this one is no different. Even though this is an ultra-modern, unique amenity, we have branded the biergarten portion of the project as the “**Ball-Band**” Biergarten reflecting the long-time industrial heritage of the property where they used to make among other things, Red Ball Jet athletic shoes. Those of us that grew up here remember those buildings and wore those great shoes as a kid as I did. At a point in time the factories on this site were even called “The Belgian Shoe College” relative to the number of Belgian immigrants that came and worked at the factories. We may even, on occasion, hang some Belgian flags in the Biergarten as a tribute to that heritage. The logo for the Ball Band Biergarten is reminiscent to the original factory logo.

The Ball-Band Biergarten is a unique event and gathering space that can be used by all ages. The center of the building has a service area for beverages and limited concessions. The City has recently partnered with the Chicory Café who will run the concessions on peak Riverwalk activity days only. The new multiuse building also has individual occupancy restrooms that will be open during park hours. The stainless steel, wood, metal, stone and concrete elements of the improvements are intended to tie into both Mishawaka’s history and future. I even had contractors use some of the brick from the original Ball Band buildings that we saved and used it in the sign base. I love the look and especially the connection to the original site. Our goal of the project was also to add more vibrancy and interest. This included the placement of stainless-steel fish sculptures that are located in front of the future event plaza that were designed and fabricated by local artist Steve Depositor and installed by Art Works Sign Company of Mishawaka.



Concurrently with the Ironworks project, the City has created a separate space within the park to honor a number of our early citizens who contributed greatly to our City called Founder’s Circle. The large stone base will be the new home of our Perkin’s Windmill which was actually fabricated on the site that it is now being displayed on. Later this year plaques will be added that identifies the names and contributions of these founding members of our community. This space was designed by DLZ of South Bend and was constructed by the Robert Henry Corporation.

Of course, the pandemic has changed the way we can gather for the time being. Though we can’t yet gather in a way that the space was designed for, we are planning for a return to normal operations with new and existing events. Beginning Sunday July 5th, I’m excited to announce that our Farmer’s Market has moved from Central Park to the area of Ironworks Avenue adjacent to the Park between Mill Street and Hill Street. This area was designed specifically to allow this section of the street to be closed for events. The new location will provide additional space for even more vendors to participate in the Market. Also, convenient free public parking is available immediately adjacent to the market on Mill and Hill Streets, and in the public portion of the parking garage which is accessed just off of Front Street west of Mill Street.

Despite the pandemic, the Downtown has made steady progress with more new residents moving in and more businesses opening up. When a new donut shop opened, they were nearly overwhelmed by the response they have received. I have loved seeing the foot and bike traffic downtown. When I see grandparents and their grandchildren sitting on a public bench, enjoying a donut or an ice cream, I am especially gratified.

Our next project, which is currently programmed to be completed for use in 2023, includes the completion of the plaza. This project will include a Café, winter skating area, event space, festival area, small stage, skate rental, kid party room, art sculptures, and summer misting fog cooling area all in a unique urban garden setting.

One last requirement for our park projects: I want them to be cool. I hope you will agree that this project has the cool factor that will attract our citizens back to the downtown in a big way. As you get a chance, take a moment and walk or drive by these great new additions to our City. With any luck, I’ll be spending some quality time there too!

Yours in Mishawaka,

### BIERGARTEN EVENT SCHEDULE

Below you can find events that have been scheduled thus far. Additional family events are in the works with details and dates to be announced.

**1K Walk in the Park** - Monday mornings at 6:30am. Take a 1K stroll on the Riverwalk while enjoying a free cup of coffee to-go courtesy of Chicory Café. Participation is free and is a great way to head into your work week. 1K Café will operate every Monday, July 6 through August 31.

**Summer Concert Series** - Wednesday Night Concerts will be out at the Biergarten. Join the fun from 6:30pm – 8pm for live music, and food & beverages available for purchase from our friends at Smokestack. All ages are welcome!

**Friday & Saturday Evenings** - Come on down to the Biergarten for great food, drinks, and vibes! Enjoy a mix of live entertainment, games, and activities, as well as the natural beauty of the park to highlight an outdoor dining experience. Through July and August we are partnering with Chicory Café, so be sure to add dinner and drinks to your weekend plans this summer! All ages are welcome!

**Mishawaka Farmers Market** - That’s right! Beginning July 5th, the Biergarten will be the new permanent home for the Mishawaka Farmers Market. Support the local vendors you know and love, and visit the Market every Sunday from 11am – 3pm. Dates run through September 27.